

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Formatting, editorial, and U.S. patent practice type amendments have been made to the Abstract and the specification. No new matter is believed to be added. Approval and entry are requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 second paragraph as being indefinite. In response to the Examiner's specific objections, amendments have been made to claims that overcome same. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Editorial amendments have been made to the claims to improve consistency and readability. None of the amendments is believed to be a narrowing amendment. In addition, new claims 12-20 have been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Mitchell. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). There must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention. *Scripps Clinic & Research Found. v. Genentech Inc.*, 927 F.2d 1565, 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Mitchell does not satisfy this rigorous standard.

Mitchell describes discovering and registering middleboxes in response to a call set-up message. Knowing the identities of the middleboxes, a middlebox control node can signal to the middleboxes appropriate orders so that the middleboxes can perform required tasks. But Mitchell fails to disclose or suggest the claimed **flow** discovery and registration procedure.

There is no teaching in Mitchell, for example, of (1) a mobile flow registering its presence in the middlebox or of (2) that middlebox, in response to the mobile flow registration, signaling the identity of the mobile flow and the identity of the middlebox to a central controller such as the midcom agent, as set forth for example in independent 1. In this way, mobile packet flows that move between different middleboxes in response to movement of a mobile terminal can be accommodated.

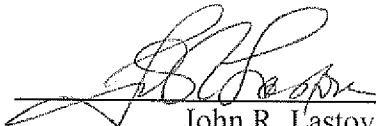
Moreover, when a session is set-up between terminals, A and B, the session controller or midcom agent in Mitchell does not know which middleboxes the mobile flow will encounter along its way from source A to destination B, and therefore, cannot signal to the middleboxes how they shall control the mobile flow. But these problems are solved in claim 1, for example, when a mobile flow, upon entry in a middlebox, registers its presence in the middlebox. In response, the middlebox signals its own identity and the identity of the mobile flow to a midcom agent. In response, the midcom agent, now having knowledge of the flow and the middlebox, signals to the middlebox appropriate orders regarding how to handle the mobile flow. Each time the flow encounters a new middlebox along its way to the destination, this procedure is repeated. Numerous advantages are achieved with this technology, some of which are described, for example, on page 4, beginning at line 25 through page 5, line 12.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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